

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 currently remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 12, 17, 19, 26, 37 and 44 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the telephonic interview with Applicants' representative on December 7, 2004. During this interview, dummy link state information and the rejections were discussed.

Claims 2, 26, 37 and 44 have been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Claims 12 and 17 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 12 and 17 have been amended to correct any indefiniteness. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are definite and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The present invention improves the reintroduction of a network node into a network and resynchronization of link state information in the network node. A link state packet request message referencing dummy link state information is transmitted to one or more neighboring nodes. The "dummy link state packet" or "dummy link state information" refers to a link state packet or link state information that a receiving node will not have referenced in its link state database (see page 16, lines 8-21 for example). A message referencing the dummy link state packet is transmitted back from one or more neighboring nodes (in response). The received link state packets can then be used to generate a network graph.

Independent claims 1, 12, 19, 26, 37 and 44 have been amended to clarify the present invention. The independent claims now recite "dummy link state information that includes link state information that the first neighboring node does not reference in its link state database". This clarifies the nature of the dummy link state information. No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification on page 16, lines 8 to page 19, line 7, for example.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-50 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,742,820 to Perlman et al. (referred to herein as 'Perlman'). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 1 twice recites dummy link state information (elements two and three). Perlman is silent on dummy link state information. The portions of Perlman indicated in the Office Action dated September 7, 2004 to anticipate dummy link state information are notably missing any mention of dummy link state information (see col. 6, lines 46-58 and col. 6, line 56 to col. 7, line 6). That, and the entire disclosure of Perlman does not teach or suggest sending dummy link state information, sending dummy link state information between nodes, or using dummy link state information to acquire link state information. As mentioned in the MPEP 2131, "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference."

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable.

Independent claims 12, 19, 26, 37 and 44 each include dummy link state limitations similar to independent claim 1 and are patentable for at least the reasons described above with respect to independent claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Perlman does not teach or suggest independent claims 1, 12, 19, 26, 37 and 44, and that the independent claims are allowable.

Claims 2-11, 13-18, 20-25, 27-36, 38-43 and 45-50 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 12, 20, 21, 24 and 27 and are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims. For example, dependent claims 6 and 7 mention third and fourth messages, respectively, that each reference the dummy link state information. Not only is Perlman silent on the dummy link state information in these claims, he is also silent on third and fourth messages between the node and neighboring node since his comparative method only sends a first message to the neighbor. In Perlman, after comparison of this first message, a second message is then sent and no further messages are broadcast between the node and neighboring node.

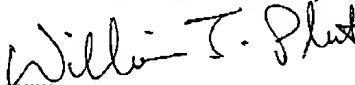
Withdrawal of the rejection of under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Response is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. CISC207).

Respectfully submitted,

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Limited Recognition under 37 C.F.R. §10.9(b)

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Expires: April 21, 2005



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